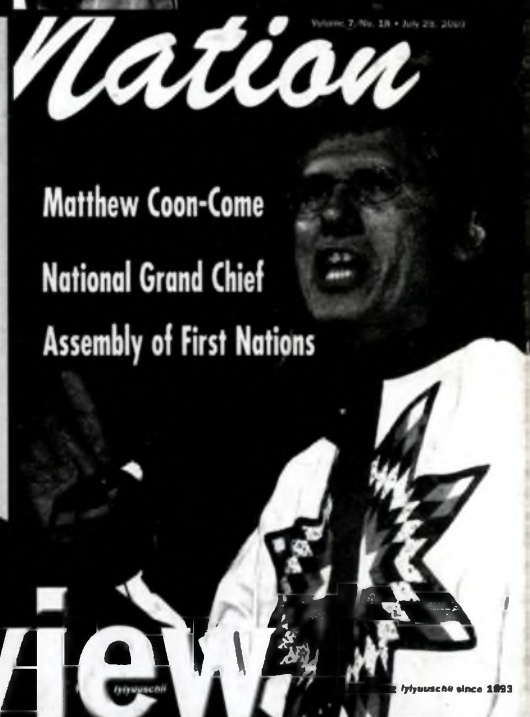
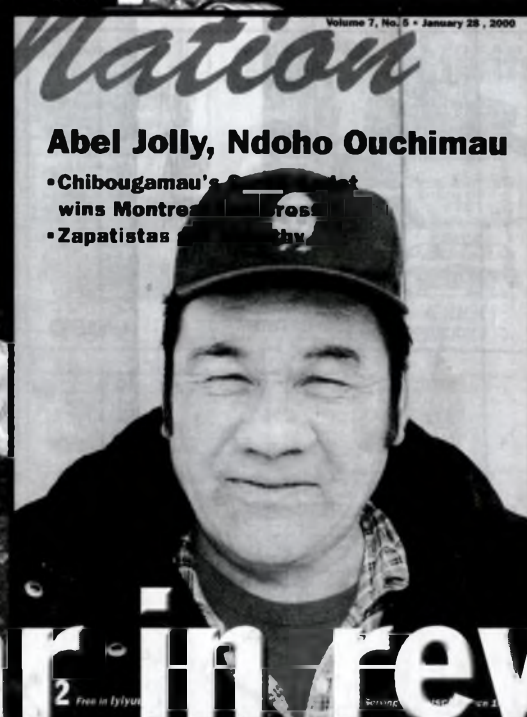
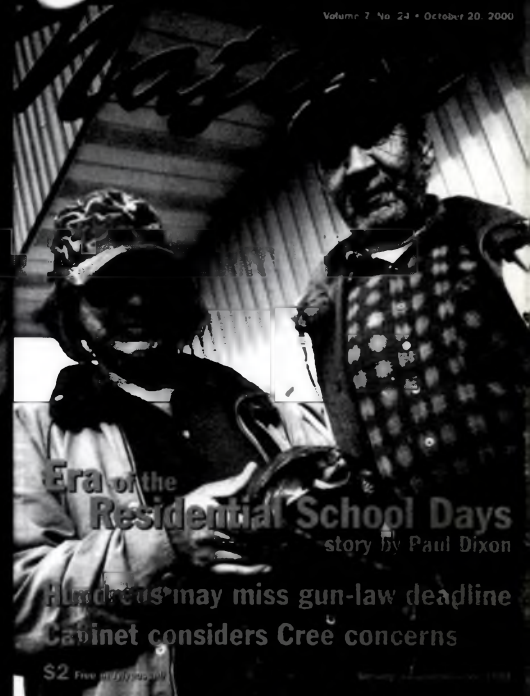
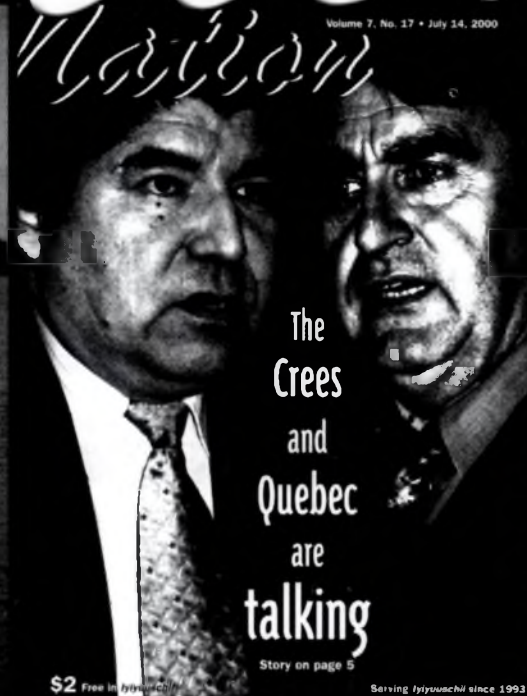
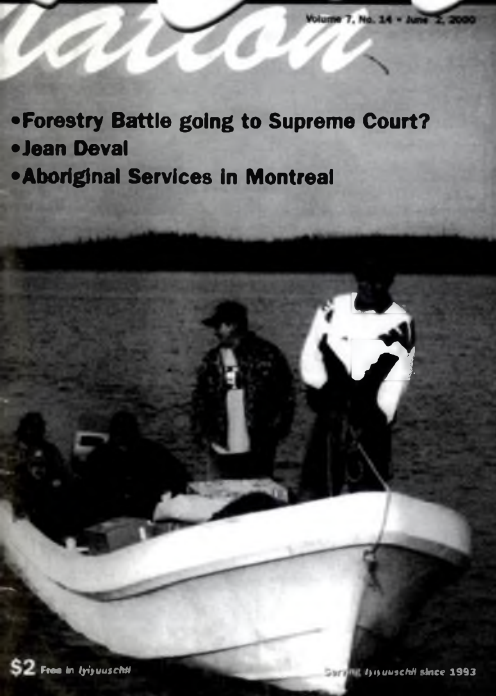


Nation



Year in review

Great Whale project back on?
Servinor might be sold

\$2 Free in Iiyuuuschii

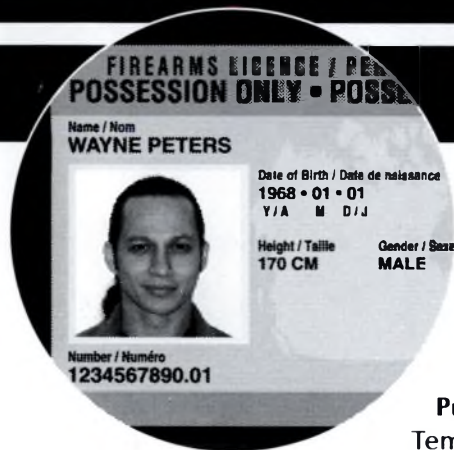
Serving Iiyuuuschii since 1993

Important Information

for all Canadians about

responsible firearm ownership

An update on licensing



Temporary licences issued to meet demand

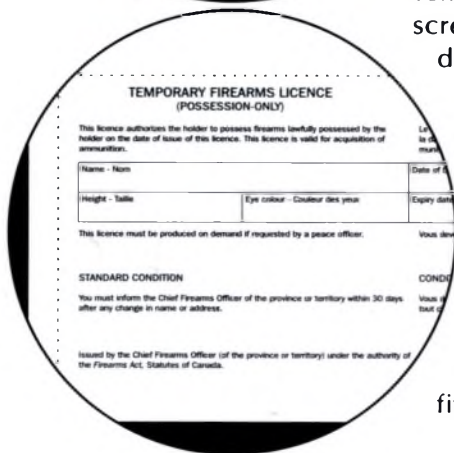
To comply with the *Firearms Act* requirement for firearm owners to have a licence as of January 1, 2001, Canadians sent in their licence applications in record numbers. To meet this demand, temporary licences are being issued to eligible firearm owners.

Public safety remains the cornerstone of the firearms program.

Temporary licences are only being issued to those who are successfully screened against Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) databases. And, like all other firearm licence holders, those with temporary firearms licences will be continuously screened against police databases.

These public safety checks conform to the *Firearms Act* and keep firearms away from those who should not have them.

Temporary licence holders are not permitted to acquire firearms. However, they will be in legal possession of their firearms and they will be able to get ammunition. Temporary licences are only valid until June 30, 2001 or until those eligible receive their five-year licence.



Grace period introduced

Firearm owners who applied for their licence before the deadline will not be penalized if they did not receive their licence by January 1, 2001.

This grace period will last until June 30, 2001. It only protects people who applied for a licence before January 1, 2001. Firearm owners and users who did not apply for a licence or who don't have a valid Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC) may be subject to penalties under the *Criminal Code*.

For more information, assistance or forms, call **1 800 731-4000** or visit our Web site at **www.cfc.gc.ca**

Canada



Christmas supper at George Blacksmith's.

WHITE KNIGHTS NEVER DIE OUT

This year I went back home to Mistissini for the holidays. My brother, Don, was the kind soul who picked up Neil, Lynn and myself for that long ride home from Montreal. I wasn't that talkative, slept a lot and occasionally thought about various things.

I thought about the idea of the "white knight" and how it seemed a fleeting thing of the past. Yes, I thought that chivalry was dead.

Just look around you at the occupations that people could do to make a difference these days. They all seem tarnished to our jaded eyes. A politician is thought of as a crook more than a do-gooder. A policeman is seen as someone who could be crooked or looking out for just policemen. A journalist is seen as a sensationalist more than a reporter. An activist is a tree-hugger in the way of progress. And that is just a few areas where a person would go to be a "white knight".

By a "white knight" I mean an occupation where you try to do something that benefits all without thought to your own well-being. I guess I was getting a little cynical in my thinking.

I was surprised when I was home to find that changing when I thought about it. First of all, my brother picked us up without thought to himself and the second thing was I was invited for a Christmas day supper by an old friend George Blacksmith and his family. Small things to some but when you are down south you miss the easy way that Crees do things for each other. The cynicism was being worn down.

One night I went out to enjoy some liquid refreshments with some friends. I had an enjoyable time but was warned about walking home

alone. Apparently some younger folk cause a little trouble for lonely travelers. A couple of guys, without me asking, gave me an escort to make sure I was safe. It opened my eyes.

The next day I was looking for a news story and thought I came across a good one. The Mistissini Wreath of Hope. The people doing it had raised over \$34,000. It was impressive but when I talked to them they didn't want recognition in *the Nation* or elsewhere. They were doing it for people and not themselves. There was a host of people who had helped to raise money.

I went to the New Years Party put on by the community. No drinking but a lot of prizes. Clifford Benac won the trip to Las Vegas; Beatrice Petawabino won the living room set. The funniest story told won James Jonah of Waskaganish a three star blanket. Stanley Gunner won a Polaris 340 skidoo.

You get the idea. It was non-drinking celebration that had rewards and I saw a lot of people who volunteered their time to make it happen.

At the end of it all I realized something. Yes, the concept of the pure untarnished white knight might be in jeopardy but people still had the desire and the means to affect life just as much as they did. I think that those of us in the south should head back home on a regular basis just to remind ourselves that while the Crees never had any white knights in name we definitely have a few in action.

So when you see a local politician or police officer walking around, go up and give them a hug. Chances are they are a white knight of sorts and shouldn't be left out in the cold.

by Will Nicholls

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ON THE COVER

Past cover of the year

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TITLE: Accountant
Place of Work; Oujé-Bougoumou

Core functions

Under the direction of the Chairman/President, the Accountant ensures the effective control and updating of all the stages of the accounting system for the Cree Regional Authority acting through the Board of Compensation and CreeCo such as presentation of the budgets, financial statements, cash flow statements and financial forecasts.

Characteristic Functions

Co-ordinates the accounting activities in the following functions:

- Analyses and organises the accounting system with procedures;
- Organises and implements internal control;
- Supervise employees including assistance and training;
- Prepares financial statements on a monthly basis for the CRA Board of Compensation and CreeCo
- Assists in the preparation and revision of budgets;
- Prepares financial forecast statements to evaluate the financial situation;
- Prepares cash flow statements to determine future cash requirements;
- Coordinates and maintains financial controls over contract agreements between various departments involved;
- Ensures that all necessary accounting information and documentation required for the annual audit are prepared and available;
- Executes regularly other related tasks as required by immediate supervisor.

Requirements:

- Knowledge of accounting systems and procedures acquired through formal education and experience (an accounting degree is a plus although not a pre-requisite)
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- Ability to work with computer software (spreadsheets, word processing, Accpac, etc.)
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Nation



SECRETIVE TALKS ON REVIVING GREAT WHALE

The Whapmagoostui and Chisasibi band councils are quietly discussing a proposal to revive the Great Whale River hydro-electric project, *The Nation* has learned.

The idea is to divert the Great Whale into Hydro-Quebec's existing La Grande dam complex — an idea first proposed by Hydro-Quebec in 1997.

But this time, there's a twist. Crees themselves would eventually be 100-percent owners of the project.

The project isn't being proposed by Hydro-Quebec, but rather by AMEC Inc., a large UK-based engineering firm with 50,000 employees in 40 countries.

AMEC quietly approached Steven Bearskin, president of the Cree Construction and Development Company, with the idea two years ago.

"It's just an idea. It's not official," said David Masty, chief of Whapmagoostui. "It's at the discussion stage. We haven't taken a position on it as a community."

So far, the discussions have included a meeting between AMEC and some community members in Whapmagoostui in September, and a meeting with the chief and council in Chisasibi in late fall.

Some of those involved in the discussions were surprised when asked about the project.

An engineer at AMEC insisted that *The Nation* must not publish a story because the situation is too "sensitive" at this point.

"We don't want this to be public. I'd like to keep this confidential because nothing has been signed with the Crees," said François Vézina, an engineer at AMEC's Mon-

tréal office.

"If you print something, it won't be good for us. These are sensitive issues," he said.

Violet Pachanos, chief of Chisasibi, said the meetings were held simply to get more information "to tell people what is being contemplated."

The next step is a joint Chisasibi-Whapmagoostui community meeting to discuss the project, she said.

Pachanos said she favours partnerships on development projects, along the lines proposed by Hydro-Quebec in 1997. "Yeah, I suppose that's the way people have to look at things now. It could be economically viable for everybody."

But the new project promises to be controversial. In July 1997, Whapmagoostui held a referendum on whether their river should be developed; 92 percent said no.

At the time, Masty, then-executive director of the band, was adamantly opposed to the project.

"This project will not be discussed by the Crees with Hydro-Quebec," he told *The Nation* after the referendum.

"It's better to attack the idea before it materializes any further and much money is spent on it," he said.

But now, Masty is refusing to take a position on the latest

"We don't want this to be public. If you print something, it won't be good for us."

by Alex Roslin

continued on page 9

Great Whale project "first of its kind"

Steven Bearskin calls the latest version of the Great Whale hydro-project a "radical" idea.

It would be the first-ever wholly Native-owned hydro-electric project in Canada and would guarantee Crees much-needed revenues for generations, he says.

"There would be 100-percent Cree ownership. It would be the first of its kind," said Bearskin, president of the Cree Construction and Development Company.

Bearskin predicted some Crees will be interested in the project because it promises jobs and long-term revenue.

"I have a feeling some people would be open (to it)," he said.

But it's going to be a tough sell. Matthew Mukash, the deputy grand chief, was chief of Whapmagoostui during the campaign against the original Great Whale hydro-project, a campaign he led.

That plan was shelved in 1994 after a nasty five-year international battle.

"I know people are not so favourable to it. I think nobody's interested in the project, except to hear about it," he said.

Asked if his community has had any change of heart on the project, he replied. "I doubt it very much. Not from this community anyway."

Mukash was present at meetings last fall to discuss the latest proposal.

Bearskin acknowledged there are "many hurdles." Apart from Cree consent, it's not clear whether the Quebec government would be open to giving Crees 100-percent ownership.

But Bearskin is hopeful, pointing to a recent agreement that would see several Innu communities become minority partners in a hydro-project on the North Shore. "The government seems to be willing to make changes in the way it is thinking," he said.

Before there are any formal discussions with Hydro-Quebec, however, he said Crees have to make a decision on whether to go ahead in the first place. **-BY ALEX ROSLIN**

Healing Ceremony needed at Friendship Centre

Dear Editor,

I've been following with interest the recent reports in The Nation concerning the internal conflict that has been destroying the peace of the Native Friendship Centre here in Montréal these past few months, and today I finally decided to write to you (that was one of my New Year's resolutions), simply to share with you some of my own personal reflections on this sad situation.

I'm an Elder (naturally I'm not speaking here on a spiritual level but only referring to my age as a woman who has passed 62 winters), of non-status Seneca/Mohawk ancestry, but my spirit name (received from the spirits through a Cree elder during a Sweat lodge ceremony in Manitoba several years ago) is Cree: KI WA TI NO ESQUAY KABE MACHIT.

I've been a member of the Montréal Friendship Centre for quite a few years now, attending a Healing Circle every week for the past four years, and the Centre is very precious to me; it has become not only my community but my "family".

Along with a large number of other members, I attended the important meeting organized at the Centre last December 8th by the newly elected Board of Directors to give us all information and in the hope of resolving this conflict which has hurt so deeply our native urban community.

I must recommend the Board of Directors for having the delicacy to call in a professional translation service to assure that all our members could follow the discussions. I myself happen to be bilingual, but a lot of the Centre's are not, and this meeting was of utmost importance for the future harmony of the whole community.

At a certain moment during the meeting, I became aware of not feeling at ease...but why? Then I realized we were all sitting in rows, one behind the other...I couldn't see the tears on the face or in the heart of the people sitting behind me, nor of those sitting in front of me, and they could not see mine...That made me start to dream, to wonder...

Yes, I just wonder: what might have happened that night, if we had pushed off our chairs into a large circle, dimmed the lights (unless Hydro-Québec had already done that for us...I'm told they were considering cutting off the current as the Centre hadn't fed them enough money lately?!), and lit a candle in the midst of the circle...

Then someone would light up the sacred herbs and we would each take the time to smudge, in order to purify ourselves and open our hearts before speaking...

The Elder whom we would have asked to guide us in the Healing Circle ceremony would no invite us to hold hands as he prayed to the Spirit, asking the Creator to bring our hearts together, thanking the Creator for the beauty of all creation and for the beauty in each one of us.

A I already mentioned to you, we were a big crowd of members thatnight, so the circle of chairs would have to be pretty large...We probably wouldn't be able to find a place to sit beside our best friends...We'd just have to sit wherever we happened to find an empty chair. So, maybe the new President would find herself holding the hand of the former President, and all of us just might find ourselves having to hold hands with the person we felt least attracted to...maybe even with our worst enemy!

Something very special happens when a group of people touch each other in this way during the opening (and closing) prayer at such a ceremony: a positive energy passes from one hand to another, all around the entire circle. No one is excluded, and the warming touch of our neighbors' hands softens

our heart...

After that, the Elder would bring Eagle into the Circle. Eagle is one of our most powerful – and healing – medicines and, as each person in the Circle got to hold the sacred feather and, one after the other, we would have our turn to release the depths of our heart to the Community, all our tears, all our pain, would be laid down in the centre of the Circle. Then something very beautiful would happen:

...The tears, the secret sufferings of each heart would blend together and become somehow lighter, smaller, just like the melting wax of the candle burning on our altar in the midst of the Healing Circle. And then we could bury them tenderly under a blanket of tolerance and mutual respect.

After that, and only then, we could open the Circle and send someone downstairs to gather up the youth (the young people had all been sent down to the basement – to play? – that night while we adults were tensely discussing our conflict in the main hall), and invite them into our Circle so as to say to them:

"Come, children, you who are our future. We, your elders and role models, welcome you now into our Circle. Listen, look, and learn from what we ourselves have experienced. Learn that, like us, someday you – or your children, our your children's children all down through the seventh generation – you too will wake up someday to find yourselves in conflict. But do not be afraid: the Creator has given us sacred ceremonies to help us rebuild peace. These ceremonies are not some sort of magical formula which will magically make all differences vanish. Our ceremonies are tools – very powerful tools – to help create and re-affirm community. So do not be afraid, but take care to remember to respect and to use wisely these tools that the Creator has specifically offered to us, his people...

I dream, and I wonder...What might have happened, that night of December 8th, if we had taken the time (yes, our ceremonies do take time, and we all know the "Indian Time" can be a lot longer than "non-native" time!) to try and resolve our conflict through the traditional ceremonies the Creator has given us?

I dream, and I wonder...What might have happened if, as a Community, we decided that an obligatory prerequisite to each change of leadership at our Friendship Centre would be to invite all the members of former and the new Board of Directors – with the guidance of a wise and experienced Elder – to participate together in a Sweat lodge ceremony as a means of formally passing on their authority?...I dream, and I wonder, if then perhaps there might not have been any conflict at all?

Yes, I dream...and my heart desired to share my dream with you today. Thank you for listening to me...

May Spirit breath many blessings on each one of you at The Nation in this New Year that is opening its path before us...

with love,

KI WA TI NO ESQUAY KABE MACHIT
(Pia Riedemann)



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CREECO. ORDERED TO SELL SERVINOR

The Crees' eight-year venture in food distribution is over.

The leadership of the Cree Regional Authority has ordered CREECO., the Cree-owned economic development company, to sell Servinor Food Wholesaler Inc., its money-bleeding subsidiary.

The move came in a resolution at a special Dec. 12 meeting of the Council/Board, the body that runs the CRA.

One Cree official called it a "very distressing, very disturbing" development. "Crees will just be consumers now. They will no longer be players in their own economy," said the official, who was present at the Dec. 12 meeting.

Servinor has been losing money almost since it was first formed in 1993 and was projected to lose \$1.6 million in the 2000-2001 fiscal year, said Jack Blacksmith, president of both CREECO and Servinor.

Blacksmith said CREECO. is now exploring its options, including selling Servinor or entering a partnership with another company.

"We're leaving our doors open," he said. "Nothing is closed on Servinor. Everything is on the table."

But the Cree official said the Council/Board resolution is explicit: CREECO. must sell Servinor by the end of the fiscal year, March 31.

Blacksmith said he does not know how much Servinor has lost since 1993, but he said the food wholesaler was projected to keep losing money until at least 2003.

Servinor has projected revenues of \$24 million this year.

The Cree official said

Servinor has cost Crees about \$30 million since 1993.

The idea behind Servinor sounded like a sure winner. The company was supposed to capture the lucrative Cree food market, provide Crees with jobs and, hopefully, lower the exorbitant prices Crees pay for food.

"The food business is one of the most logical businesses to be in," said the Cree official.

"When there is a recession, people still have to eat."

But Servinor struggled to convince Cree communities to switch over, especially Chisasibi and Mistissini, which together account for half the Cree population.

There were complaints about the level of service. Some Cree stores were just happy with their existing wholesaler.

Servinor also hasn't been successful in providing Crees with direct employment. Of 45 employees, only two are Cree, including Blacksmith himself.

Servinor ran into more problems when it built a massive multi-million-dollar warehouse in Val d'Or. CREECO. was accused of spending millions without proper authorization from the Cree leadership.

Worse, said another Cree official, the warehouse was built with the intent of servicing the workforce of Hydro-Quebec for the proposed Great Whale River hydro-electric project — a project Crees were at the time ferociously fighting to stop.

When the project was shelved in 1994, Servinor was left scrambling to find clients for the cavernous warehouse, the official said.

by Alex Roslin

Waswanipi man loses life in highway tragedy

A tragic road accident near Demaraisville claimed the life of a young Waswanipi man just before the holidays.

Claude Gull, 30, was dead at the scene when the car in which he was a passenger went off the road at about 3:15 a.m. on December 16 about 4 kilometres east of Demaraisville.

The driver survived with only minor injuries.

Highway conditions were bad, with icy roads and freezing rain.

Waswanipi police arrived within 20 minutes, but Gull already showed no signs of life, said the community's police chief Tommy Grant.

Grant said provincial police took over the investigation.

Peyote proponent prosecuted

A Native man in Utah who says peyote has the power to cure society's ills has been charged with a dozen counts of drug trafficking and one count of racketeering, reports Associated Press.

James Warren "Flaming Eagle" Mooney, a former cop and prison guard, says the mystical power of the tiny peyote cactus can free people from drug addiction and mental illness.

But on Oct. 10, sheriff's deputies raided Mooney's home and his adjoining church, seizing a ceremonial pipe, a computer and 33 pounds of peyote.

If convicted, he could be sentenced to life in prison.

Mooney has also become a peyote pariah, scorned by some First Nations healers who say peyote should be reserved for Native people.

Mooney says he will do what it takes to get the medicine to those who need it.

"Being prosecuted and facing these charges -- this is coming from my heart -- I consider it an honour," he told AP.

For the roughly 250,000 members in 100 branches of the Native American Church, peyote ceremonies are a sacred sacrament, the flesh of God put on earth to

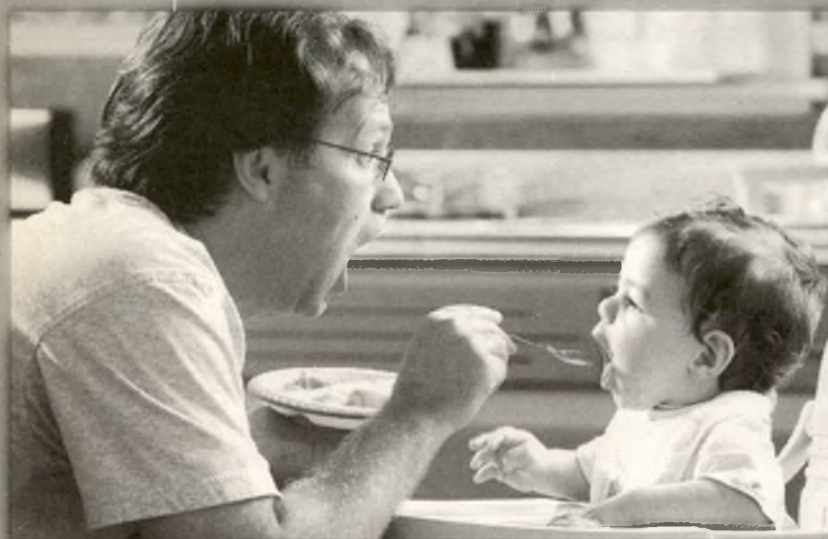
continued on page 9

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Is there something that the company or organization that you work for is doing that should be noticed by others in Native America?

Is there someone in your community such as an Elder or other role model that you think deserves to be recognized?

What are your federal, tribal, provincial, and local politicians up to?

Is there anybody running to take their place that you think would do a better job?

Is there something that is hurting Native people and needs to be brought to light so that it can be put to an end?

What issues (local, national, and international) do think are not getting the press they deserve?

DO you have a story that would make people laugh?

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Canada



92% voted no...

continued from page 5

version of the project: "I prefer not to state my personal opinion."

He added, "Certainly the proposed project would have less impact than we thought. But then again, in the referendum people said they were opposed to the project."

Vézina, of AMEC, refused to provide any details about the project: "Once an agreement is signed, we will be pleased to speak with you."

Cree officials also offered few details. They did say, however, that AMEC is proposing to design and arrange financing for the Great Whale diversion. The UK company would also get a share of the ownership and profits during the period of debt repayment.

Bearskin said he did not know how long that period would be. Much depends on the financing terms. He said there are "estimates" of how much profit would be generated, but wouldn't give any details.

"Theoretically, it should be a profitable situation," said Gordon Livingstone, Cree Construction's vice-president of marketing and business development.

"Our job as an economic developer is to look at opportunities that come along," he said.

One Cree source said the cost of the project is estimated at \$350 million.

Under Hydro-Quebec's 1997 plan, the Great Whale was to be diverted at its headwater, Lac Bienville.

The river's flow would have been greatly reduced downstream. The water was to be diverted over 10 kilometres of canals into the existing La Grande complex, increasing the amount of water available to Hydro's turbines there.

Also in 1997, Hydro-Quebec proposed to divert the Rupert River into the Eastmain and La Grande complexes.

That plan would see a large new reservoir near Nemaska and would leave the mouth of the Rupert filled with salt water.

Crees would have been minority shareholders in both projects and would have put up some of the financing in exchange for some of the profits.

Last year, Crees agreed that Hydro-Quebec could conduct feasibility studies of the Rupert project. Crees also received funds to conduct their own studies of the project.



Briefs...

continued from page 7

provide clarity and bring followers closer to the Creator.

It is illegal to ingest peyote, a hallucinogen, in Utah and at least 27 other states. But in 1994, Congress made exemptions for "the practice of a traditional Indian religion" by members of federally recognized tribes.

Utah prosecutors argue the exemptions don't apply to Mooney, who is not enrolled in a tribe and administers peyote primarily to white people.

Mooney was a member of the Oklevueha Seminole Band -- which is not federally recognized -- until the new chief threw him out for conducting peyote ceremonies. He makes no apologies for giving peyote to white people.

Mooney is suing Utah County claiming religious discrimination.

The tiny, spineless peyote cactus grows in the desert of southern Texas and northern Mexico. The bulbs are either eaten or brewed into a tea consumed during prayer ceremonies that can last all night.

The plant is bitter and can cause vomiting. It contains a small amount of mescaline and botanists say the effect is similar to LSD.

Mooney, 57, hardly fits the mold of a drug trafficker.

He says he is a descendant of the great Seminole chief Osceola and was blessed by his grandfather to be a medicine man at age 4 after narrowly surviving a violent sexual attack.

He is a practicing Mormon but also leads the Oklevueha Earthwalks Native American

Church.

He spent 10 years in law enforcement, six working in the Utah State Prison and volunteering to perform Native rituals.

A framed commendation from Governor Mike Leavitt for his prison work hangs on the wall of his church.

While working in prison, Mooney helped several prisoners with drug addictions turn their lives around by giving them peyote.

"This has brought me a lot closer to God. It has helped me to heal," said one prisoner.

Mooney said he was cured of manic depression by peyote and was commanded by his chief, Little Dove, not to deny peyote to anyone.

"My only concern is to heal the pain of this society," he said.

"These Native American ceremonies sustained this culture through the greatest atrocities and holocaust this world has ever known. Can you imagine what it can do for the ailments of this society that is crying for peace?"

13 dead in massacre

Gunmen forced 13 villagers in Colombia from their homes one by one Jan. 5 and fatally shot them in the head, reports Associated Press.

The killings in the northern Colombian town of Guatape came two days after an alleged paramilitary massacre in the same region.

On Jan. 3, about 100 far-right paramilitary gunmen rounded up and killed 11 suspected guerrilla sympathizers in Yolombo, 30 miles from Guatape, a state prosecutor said.

2000: Year In Review

January:

-The world rings in the new year without the much anticipated computer armageddon. Elevators don't plummet, planes don't crash, and micro-wave ovens don't blow up. Who knew?

-Called the greatest legal victory for the crees since 1972, when Justice Alfred Malouf stopped the James Bay project, a Quebec Superior Court rules that the province's logging regime in the Cree territory is illegal and unconstitutional. Justice Jean-Jacques Croteau rebuked Quebec for ignoring the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and stated in his 56 page ruling that the, "constitutional rights of the Cree plaintiffs have been openly and continually violated."

-Ricky Petawabano, of Mistissini, awaits trial in Amos after being arrested and charged with possession of narcotics with intent to sell for the second time in five months. Police found 60 grams of marijuana and 34 grams of cocaine after searching his car.

-Real Lemery, a 70 year old Florida man, is accidentally shot in the buttocks near LG-4 by a fellow hunter who thought he was a caribou. His injuries are not considered serious.

-Celine Dion and Rene Angelil spare no expense in renewing their wedding vows at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas. 235 invited guests take in the spectacle that features an Arabian theme, complete with camels.

-CTV NewsNet fires anchor Avery Haines for derogatory remarks made when she thought the camera was off. After blowing a line, Haines said: "I could be a lesbian, folk-dancing, black woman stutterer in a wheelchair with a gimping rubber leg. Yeah, really. I'd have a successful career, let me tell you."

February:

-Phil Fontaine, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, and top officials of the National Congress of American Indians visit Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier in a show of support. Peltier, has spent two and a half decades in a U.S. jail for allegedly killing two FBI agents. The evidence against him is weak and his innocence has been proclaimed since day one. Meanwhile, he continues to serve two consecutive life sentences.

-Former Waswanipi chief John Kitchen is acquitted of a charge of drinking-and-driving stemming from an incident in August, 1998, when his vehicle went off the road on Highway 113 between Desmaraisville and Waswanipi. Defense

argued that the Chief was not drunk at the time and that the accident was caused due to a tire that blew out.

-Singer Richard Desjardins, Quebec environmental groups, and the Grand Council of the Crees gather in Montreal to ask for a moratorium on the approval of new forest management plans. Desjardins warns of the eventual disappearance of the boreal forest and compares the effects of clearcutting, when viewed from an airplane flying overhead, to the look of a Mohawk haircut.

-The Mistissini True Value Hardware store wins the "Rookie of the Year" award from the Canadian Retail Hardware Association. Maamuu Mistissini Attaawaakamikw won the award based on outstanding performance in the areas of merchandising skill, customer service, community involvement, advertising and growth and profitability.

-Natives in Saskatchewan call for a public inquiry into all aspects of the criminal justice system when two Native men freeze to death after being left out in the bitter cold by police officers. Vigils are held in Saskatoon and Prince Albert. In regards to the actions of the police, Perry Bellegarde, Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations states that, "nobody can operate like that. Everybody has to feel secure that something will be done."

-The world of television entertainment reaches new heights with Who Wants To Marry A Multi-Millionaire. Fifty contestants compete for the chance to marry Rick Rockwell, a man they know nothing about. Darva Conger was the lucky winner who discovered that Rockwell was not as rich as she thought. They married on the air and she sought an annulment soon after. Conger claimed that she was embarrassed by the whole episode and had really hoped to fall in love. She then went on to pose for Playboy.

-A study ranks Quebec as the number one province in Canada . . . when it comes to euthanizing pets. La Belle Province is reported to put nearly 500,000 Minous and Rovers to sleep in a year.

-Charles Schulz, the creator of Charlie Brown and Snoopy, dies at age 77.

-The PQ passes a resolution that the Canadian flag may not be permitted to fly from Quebec buildings under any circumstance, but the flag is under federal, not provincial, jurisdiction.

March:

-A Cree delegation goes to Washington to inform U.S trade officials and congressional staff about Quebec's forestry

practices. Doors were opened for the Crees by the Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports, a powerful U.S. lobby group that is leading the charge against Canada's low stumpage fees. The Americans point to Quebec, where stumpage fees are among the lowest in the world, as the worst culprit.

-Crees are outraged by the Chief Justice Lyse Lemieux's decision to replace Justice Jean-Jacques Croteau and reverse his decision in the Mario Lord forestry lawsuit. Lemieux appointed Justice Danielle Grenier as the new judge. "It's a sad day for Quebec justice," said Bill Namagoose, executive director of the Grand Council of the Crees. "I feel embarrassed for all Quebecers. Their justice system has been tarnished."

-Pope John Paul II asks for forgiveness for many of the Roman Catholic Church's past sins, including its treatment of First Nations, Jews, women, and heretics. However, one Native American man noted that the Pope has refused to overturn the 1493 Papal Bull giving "right of discovery" and land title to those who acquired new territories in the name of the church, especially in the Americas.

-Boston Bruins enforcer Marty McSorley is charged with assault after whacking Vancouver's Donald Brashear on the side of the head with his stick. Brashear winds up with a concussion.

-Justin Rushford, a rap enthusiast in Troy, Mich., violates the city's loud radio ordinance and is forced to listen to two hours of Wayne Newton. "It makes me think about other people's style of music," said Rushford. "I probably wouldn't appreciate it if some old man drove past me blasting this music."

-British researchers claim that male menopause is more than a myth.

-A four-tonne orca whale washes ashore in Tsawwassen, B.C. and is so full of PCB's that it is classified as toxic waste.

April:

-The Canadian Government and church leaders squabble over who should pay compensation to native survivors of residential schools. The Feds want the churches that ran the schools to take responsibility and pay some of the money, expected to be in the billions. The Anglicans and some of the other churches complain that the payments might drive them into bankruptcy. "I don't believe for a minute that it's going to drive any of them into bankruptcy," said Vancouver lawyer David Paterson, who initiated Canada's first residential school lawsuit. "The real question is, do they take the issue seriously?"

-Approximately \$95,000 was raised to fight a rare Cree brain disease in the Win-

ter Journey fundraising campaign, which saw 42 people walk from as far as Waswanipi and Mistissini to Nemaska. Ottawa refuses to fund research into Cree Leukoencephalitis, which has claimed 21 children's lives. Little is known about the disease, except that almost all its victims are Crees from Quebec. The walkers were led by Abraham Ottereyes and James A. Gunner.

-Montreal's Native Friendship Centre celebrates its 25th anniversary.

-Stockwell Day admits to inhaling marijuana. We knew he must have been smoking something.

-An Italian literature professor claims that William Shakespeare was Italian. Go figure.

-Pie throwers take aim at Bernard Landry, but only manage to hit his shoulder. Landry labels the would-be snipers as "dangerous."

-10,000 demonstrators protest at an International Monetary Fund meeting in Washington, D.C. Five hundred are arrested.

-The U.S. threatens to stop protecting Canada if we don't join in on their Star Wars project. Thanks, but no thanks.

May:

-The Cree School Board holds its first ever nation-wide election for the position of chairperson. All Crees over the age of 18 can vote.

-The Catholic Oblate order claims it is on the verge of bankruptcy due to lawsuits related to residential schools. Similarly, the Anglican Church fears it will be bankrupted by next year unless the federal government steps in to save it from the spiralling costs of the lawsuits. Over 7,000 lawsuits have been filed in all against the Catholic, Anglican, United, and Presbyterian churches.

In a related story, a Cree man frustrated at the slow pace of compensation payments to survivors of residential schools, is marching from Edmonton to Ottawa. Robert Desjarlais, 53, left the Alberta capital on April 24 and hopes to reach Parliament Hill in late June. He plans to finish the last 100 miles of the journey barefoot.

-Environmentalist David Suzuki urges natives not to build casinos to raise money. Instead, he suggests that they stick to traditional practices, like carving coffins.

-Residents of Walkerton, Ontario head to the hospital in the wake of the E. coli bacteria tragedy.

-Bob Homme, a.k.a. The Friendly Giant, dies at age 81. His CBC children's show aired for 27 years.

-Hockey legend Maurice "Rocket" Richard dies at age 78. Over 100,000 fans pay their respects at the Molson Centre.

June:

-The world's largest lumber retailer, Home Depot, offers its support to the Crees and plans to visit Iiyuuuschii to examine logging operations. "We appreciate your concerns," Home Depot president Arthur Blank told a Cree delegation that he welcomed to the company's annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Home Depot also said it would raise Cree concerns about forestry at an international conference in London held by the Forestry Stewardship Council, a group that investigates the social, environmental, and economic impacts of logging.

-Just one short hour before Waswanipi youths are to set out on a 750 km protest walk to Quebec City, word comes down from the Quebec government that they will release \$2.2 million in promised funds to finish the community's long-awaited youth centre.

-Mabel Herodier is elected the new chairperson of the Cree School Board, winning 53 percent of the total votes in a June 15 runoff poll. Rival candidate Kenny Blacksmith picked up the remaining 47 percent of the votes.

-Health Canada reports that natives are five times more likely to contract HIV than other Canadians.

-The New Jersey Devils beat the Dallas Stars to win the Stanley Cup.

-Tiger Woods, to the surprise of absolutely nobody, wins the U.S. Open.

-The World Health Organization announces that Canada's health system ranks 30th in the world, finishing behind countries like Spain, Colombia, and Morocco.

-British motorists stop to help a motorcycle courier when \$220,000 in bills fly out of his backpack. Remarkably, all the money is recovered.

-Scientists claim they've finished a rough draft of the genetic blueprint for human beings.

-Molson Inc. puts the Molson Centre and the Montreal Canadiens up for sale. Still no buyer.

-Elian Gonzalez finally goes home to Cuba with his father Juan Miguel.

-Some marijuana is found in a Buckingham Palace kitchen.

July:

-Matthew Coon Come is elected as the new National Chief, defeating incumbent Phil Fontaine. Coon Come promised "loyalty to our Peoples and their aspirations." He said, "I am not in the federal camp, the Liberal camp, or any provincial camp. I will be always where I was born: in the First People's camp." He is the first Quebec Cree to be elected leader of the Assembly of First Nations.

-After a long silence, former Cree

Grand Chief Billy Diamond makes a stunning return to the public eye in a cover story in the Quebec magazine *L'Actualite*. Headlined, "I am a Cribecois," the magazine cover says Diamond "denounces the parasites who orchestrate the 'Quebec-bashing' by the Crees." In the article, Diamond attacks Cree leaders for their "lack of vision." The magazine says Diamond didn't run again for chief in Waskaganish because he was "disappointed with Cree politics." The article doesn't mention that his tenure as chief left Waskaganish on the verge of bankruptcy and in danger of being put under trusteeship.

-On the 10th anniversary of the Oka crisis, Mohawk traditionalist Ellen Gabriel informs *Hour* magazine that "the Mohawk Nation has rights to 98 million acres, not the piddly little 260 hectares they're talking about."

-Quebec ranks 10th in a study of provincial environmental protection practices.

-Ben Holcomb of Oklahoma City, the world's oldest man, celebrates his 111th birthday. Firefighters in neighbouring counties are on stand-by as he lights the candles.

-Ontario Superior Court judge David McCombs upholds the right for parents to spank their children.

-An Air France Concorde crashes into a hotel in Gonesse, France, shortly after take-off from Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris. 113 people are killed.

-Don't try this at home: One boy dies and 24 others are sent to hospital in a botched circumcision ceremony in Bizana, South Africa. Old, dirty instruments were pointed to as the cause.

August:

-Charly Washipabano scores the winning goal in a shoot-out to help over Team Indigenous to an impressive 4-2 record in its first-ever outing in Tampere, Finland. The tournament featured teams from Russia, Sweden, Finland, Germany, and the United States. Team Indigenous, created by former NHL coach-of-the-year Ted Nolan, was the only Canadian squad and finished a respectable fifth out of twelve teams competing. "They proved they were able to compete at an international level after only four or five practices," said proud mother Doris Washipabano. Nolan hopes the team will be the centrepiece of a national Aboriginal youth hockey program.

-Members of Kokumville in La Verendrye Park blockade a logging road. The Kokumville residents aren't armed and allow tourists to pass through. Kokumville leader Jacob Wawatie says that he is not opposed to forestry if it is done in harmony with his peoples' way of life. Wawatie charges that Domtar is cutting trees without the permission of the land

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The Cree Board of Health and
Social Services of James Bay

The Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay is a Cree entity responsible for the administration of health and social services for all residents under its jurisdiction. This jurisdiction comprises nine Cree communities and their surrounding territories.

PUBLIC NOTICE ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Please be advised that there are numerous positions for the purpose of the recall list available within your community on a continuing basis. All interested applicants are reminded that these positions are accessible at the following locations:

- ♦ local band council
- ♦ local hospitals/clinics
- ♦ job banks

For further details
please do not hesitate to contact:
Human Resources Management
Cree Board of Health & Social Services of James Bay
Chisasibi, Quebec J0M 1E0
Tel: (819) 855-2844 ext. 5340
Fax: (819) 855-2680
E-mail: hrmgmt@cancom.net

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Téléc: (418) 548-0921
Rés: (418) 549-9954
1 (800) 830-0821

owner on unceded land.

-Fisheries vessels sink two Mi'kmaq boats in violent confrontations near the Burnt Church First Nation, in New Brunswick. Federal fisheries boats were out picking up what they called illegal lobster traps. Mi'kmaq officials say they are exercising their treaty right to fish for lobster. A federal spokesman called the incident "a nightmare" from a public relations standpoint, and said conditions are "extremely tense out there."

-Bridgestone-Firestone recalls 6.5 million tires on SUV's and light trucks due to evidence of blowouts.

-The Russian nuclear submarine Kursk, with a crew of 118, is trapped at the bottom of the Barents Sea. Nobody survives.

-Prime Minister Jean Chretien gets pied, in PEI, by a 23 year old sniper.

-A young man sues the Ottawa Civic Hospital after they remove one of his testicles. He claims to have been misdiagnosed when admitted to the hospital after being punched in the unmenstruables by a stripper.

-Toronto council votes to send 1.3 million tonnes of garbage to an abandoned mine near Kirkland Lake, Ontario. The deal fails due to the pull-out of the company that would have been responsible for liability issues.

September:

-Mistissini First Nation initiates its own DNA study of speckled trout, having grown weary of waiting for government budget increases even though it is normally the government's responsibility to carry out such studies. The government told Mistissini that when it comes to conservation they put their money where there is a crisis. Though there is no crisis with fishing in the community, the move was made to keep it that way rather than wait for things to go wrong before taking action.

-About 80 natives blocked a CP rail line near Chase, B.C. to show support for the Mi'kmaq natives of Burnt Church. Members of the Interior Alliance were protesting against the recent arrest of 14 Mi'kmaq natives for fishing in waters off New Brunswick.

-Over 100 natives who attended St. Anne's Residential School in Fort Albany, Ontario, sue the federal government for physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

-Once again surprising absolutely nobody, Tiger Woods wins the Canadian Open.

-An 11 year old Edmonton boy actually robs a bank. His mom, 42, and another man, 22, are both charged with armed robbery.

-Crime reporter Michel Auger, of the Journal de Montreal, is shot in the back

five times in the newspaper's parking lot.

-Former Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau dies of prostate cancer at age 80.

October:

-Six members of the Cree nation are among 25 Aboriginal candidates who graduate from a three-week Canadian Armed Forces Pre-Recruit Training Course in St. Jean, Quebec. Richard and Jonathan Cheezo of Eastmain, Willard Hester and Stephanie Jonah of Waskaganish, Liette Neacappo of Chisasibi, and Isaac Petagumskum of Whapmagoostui successfully completed the challenging course.

-Alarm spreads among hunters and trappers as the December 31 deadline for gun licenses approaches. The new federal Firearms Act imposes harsh penalties for firearms owners who don't have a proper license by the new year, including fines, criminal charges, and confiscation of weapons.

-After a lengthy delay, the Grand Council of the Crees signs a \$20 million deal with federal Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault for basic infrastructure first promised under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. The agreement leaves negotiations open for future infrastructure funding.

-Cuban leader Fidel Castro dons a suit for his visit to Montreal, where he attends Pierre Trudeau's funeral. He's the guy with the beard.

-Separatists calling themselves the Brigade D'Autodefense du Francais place firebombs at three Second Cup outlets in the Plateau district of Montreal. One bomb goes off and nobody is injured. The group is now thought to have a membership of one.

-Ontario removes the theory of evolution from elementary and high school curricula due to controversy and a lack of time to teach it.

November:

-Waswanipi teenage hockey phenom Travis Grant is the first selection in the third round of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League draft. Grant, who plays with the Midget AAA Amos Forestiers, was chosen by the Foreurs of Val d'Or.

-Montreal's Native Friendship Centre is in turmoil when a new board of directors suspends its two top administrators and places them under investigation. The sudden suspensions send shockwaves through Montreal's 50,000 strong Native community.

-Innu leaders in Newfoundland ask the government to intervene in the tragic situation involving some 40 kids addicted to sniffing gasoline. The leaders want the kids to be taken to a proper treatment facility.

-U.S. President Bill Clinton pledges to give native political prisoner Leonard

Peltier a "fair hearing" in his request for clemency. Clinton will review the case in the weeks before he leaves the white House.

-Rezolution Pictures proudly releases its first film, Cree Spoken Here. The documentary, co-directed by Ernest "Goes To Camp" Webb and Neil "Golden Boy" Diamond receives huge critical acclaim.

-In an internet poll initiated by the television show This Hour Has 22 Minutes, over 900,000 Canadians vote to force Stockwell Day into changing his first name to Doris.

-Jean Chretien is re-elected as Prime Minister, thus sparing us the reign of Doris Day. Que sera, sera.

-The Montreal Alouettes lose the Grey Cup to the B.C. Lions, 28-25.

-O.J. Simpson shows up in Montreal. Who invited him?

December:

-Crees favour the Liberals over the Bloc Quebecois by a whopping 18-1 margin in a federal election that puts Guy St-Julien into a new term as the representative of the sprawling Abitibi-Baie James-Nunavik riding.

-Waskaganish experiences its first ever traffic jam as the long-awaited road connecting the Cree community to the rest of the country is finally opened. Former chief Billy Diamond was the first to make the historic drive across the road.

-Six months of Cree negotiations with Quebec on forestry appear to collapse dramatically. Cree officials leave a December 14th meeting, in Montreal, in anger when it is discovered that the Quebec government decided to go through the media before the Cree had time to review the final offer.

-Global warming is pointed to as the cause of skinnier polar bears. North America's largest land carnivores are 10 percent thinner and are having 10 percent fewer cubs than they did 20 years ago, according to an in-depth feature story in the New York Times.

-The Montreal Canadiens reach out for Maniwaki's Gino Odjick as they desperately attempt to bail out a sinking ship. Fans hope that Odjick can walk on water as well as throw a few good uppercuts.

-Baseball player Alex Rodriguez signs a ten year deal, with the Texas Rangers, for a paltry \$252 million. Not a bad wage to play a game, wouldn't you say?

-After much controversy, Al Gore finally concedes the U.S. presidential election to George W. Bush.

-Ending a three year retirement, Mario Lemieux returns to the ice and scores a goal and two assists in his first game. Pittsburgh beats Toronto 5-0.

Compiled and written
by Brian Zelnicker

I wish you all good health and prosperity in the New Year. The challenges before us as a Nation are clear:

Residential school, the La Grande Project, forestry activities and rapid social change have had impacts on our families and on individuals that we must tend to.

We are in discussions with Canada, Quebec and Hydro Quebec concerning economic issues. The Crees are under-represented in the regional workforce. These discussions have to do with the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and past commitments in respect to training and job placement. They are also aimed at helping Cree businesses to get the resources they need to grow and compete. We cannot progress as a people unless our families have access to adequate housing. In the last year we made some progress in community infrastructure with \$40 million coming in from Quebec and Canada. We also must address the community center issue and get the funding to start construction. These matters will continue to be priorities in the New Year for the Grand Council.

Discussions will also continue with Quebec in the New Year in regard to health services. We know that the Cree Board of Health and Social Services

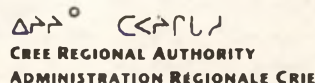
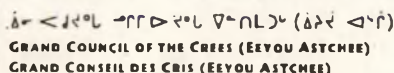
has been under-funded for years. Quebec is now aware of this and it is an issue that we must resolve soon, as people's lives depend on the success of these discussions. We also are proceeding with Hydro Quebec to examine the impacts of the La Grande project on the environment and on the Cree people. The discussions also continue on forestry and while time is getting short for us to find a solution, we proceed with the court case as well. Our right to the protection of our economy and way of life, in the context of development, is something that we must fight to have respected.

Discussions continue with Canada also on the Cree Trappers Association and the financing of operations and programs. We have still not resolved the issue of operations funding with Canada. With Quebec the financing of the operations resolved for the near future. The issue of program funding must be taken up, once again with both governments. Canada and the Grand Council are also discussing the application of the environmental regime as well as Cree rights in the offshore areas in James Bay and Hudson Bay.

These are the discussions that we are presently involved in. In addition we must question the new proposals of Hydro Quebec in regard to the Rupert and also in respect to the Great Whale River.

Finally we have some issues that we must deal with in education, health, governance and development that only we can resolve. Let us work together as the Cree Nation, as the Eeyouch to decide the way we will go and the priorities that need our urgent attention in the coming year.

Grand Chief Ted Moses



DISCOVERING THE OLD WORLD

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

BY XAVIER KATAQUAPIT

As a First Nation person visiting Europe, I have run into many situations where people are surprised to find someone like me in their city or town. Much of the time I am asked if I am Indian or often it comes up in conversation with people I meet on my way. It really is amazing that in this day and age people here in Europe still have this Hollywood image of Native people.

Most of the people I have met think we still ride horses and live in wigwams. They are surprised when I tell them who we Mushkego Crees are all about. They are amazed and even a little disappointed when I tell them that most of my people live in modern homes, drive cars and watch too much television like everybody else. However, when I talk to them about the land and how many of us still know how to live on the land they are very interested in what I have to say. When I tell them about the vast wilderness we still have, up on the James Bay coast, they are in disbelief. When I recall stories of hunting on our traditional lands and living as our ancestors did when out on the land, they are spellbound.

The land here in Europe is very much used up. There is no real wilderness and there are so many people that it is difficult to find a quiet spot. It seems as though every foot of land is developed in some sort of way for housing, farming or tourism. In the cities and towns, houses are built very close together and most people don't have the luxury of front and back yards. There are many low-rise apartment buildings and balconies are very popular.

It is often difficult for me to convince people that in five minutes I can leave my home in Canada and be in the wilderness. They also have trouble comprehending the fact that for much of my life I have lived in temperatures as low as -55 degrees Celsius and more. Most people think it is crazy to live anywhere that cold. I try to explain to them that our homes are insulated and well-heated and that we dress in several layers of clothing that cover up most of our body. They just don't believe it is possible to live at these temperatures and to tell you the truth over the past few years I had been wondering just how we do it.

Most of the homes in southern Spain are not insulated and they don't even have central heating. In Spain, France and Italy it never gets really cold with the exception of the mountain areas. Northern Europeans understand how we live in Canada because their weather more closely resembles ours.

The driving here is very different too as most of the cars are very small. Many of the First Nation people I know are around my height of six foot one inch and that poses a problem when driving in Europe. Recently I rented a small European Ford and I had to drive it almost in a fetal position. There is a lot of traffic just about everywhere you go. Everybody seems to speed and the roads are generally pretty good. In some of the more rural areas they still use horses here in Spain.

Many of those I have met here are also very interested in our spirituality. They want to know about the sweat lodge and our beliefs. I try to tell them as much as I can. It is at these moments that I realize how much we have changed with the coming of the Europeans. I find it ironic that they become upset when I tell them many of us have lost our spirituality, traditions and culture. They seem more relieved when I add that there is a new movement in reviving our way of life. The irony is that they want to see us as we were when in fact it was their ancestors who came to the Americas and forced us into their way of

thinking. It's a strange world.
January 12, 2001

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Did you know that

January 14-20, 2001

is National Non-Smoking Week

Here are some myths and facts about smoking and quitting smoking that you should know about:

MYTH # 1

Smoking is not as dangerous to my health as alcohol or other drugs.

Fact

- smoking kills more people than alcohol+other illicit drugs+motor vehicle accidents+suicide+murder+AIDS combined.
- 1 in every 5 deaths is caused by smoking.
- a study in Britain showed that for every one cigarette smoked, your life may be shortened by eleven minutes.

MYTH # 2

Smoking "light", low tar, low nicotine cigarettes are safer than regular cigarettes.

Fact

- These cigarettes are just as dangerous as the regular ones and cause just as much:
- Cancer: lung, mouth/throat, cervix (more women die from lung cancer cause by smoking than from breast cancer)
- Lung disease, asthma
- Heart Attacks
- Strokes
- Circulation(blood flow) problems, leading to amputations
- Weak bones, leading to fractures
- More coughs, colds and minor illnesses
- Skin changes, wrinkles, premature aging
- Lower fertility

MYTH # 3

Nicotine is the only harmful substance in cigarettes.

Fact

It is not nicotine, but the thousands of other toxins in tobacco which cause the vast majority of smoking-related diseases.

MYTH # 4

Nicotine replacement therapy(patch, gum) is just as dangerous as cigarette smoking and is not safe to use during pregnancy, or if you are under 18 years of age.

Fact

- Nicotine replacement therapy, because it does not contain thousands of other toxins present in cigarettes, is always safer than smoking, less addictive, and should be considered for all smokers regardless of age.
- Remember that smoking during pregnancy causes:
 - Miscarriages, early births
 - Low birth weight (small) babies
 - Weaker immune (infection-fighting) system for baby
 - Babies more likely to become addicted to nicotine and smoking later in life
 - Conduct disorder (severe behavioural problems) in boys
 - Nicotine replacement therapies have never been shown to cause these problems.

MYTH #5

There is no point quitting smoking since the damage to my body is permanent.

Fact

After quitting smoking:

- Your body begins to heal itself 20 minutes after your last cigarette.
- After 1 year, your risk of heart disease is one half that of a smoker
- After 5 years, your risk of lung cancer is one half that of a smoker
- After 10-15 years, if you have not developed smoking-related illnesses, your risk of dying is similar to someone who has never smoked.

FINAL FACT

Wednesday January 17, 2001 is Weedless Wednesday. Challenge your spouse, parents, or children, or find a friend, and join the thousands of Canadians who are using that quit date to start their smoke-free future.

TO MISTISSINI AND EASTMAIN: OLYMPIC DREAMS TO SHARE WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS

GABRIEL RABBITSKIN QUESNEL -11 YEARS OLD

You started your new swimming season for this year while watching the Sidney 2000 Olympics. You seemed to enjoy watching any events that came up, cheering for China? We both knew to look for the swimming events. Of course swimming was one of the first events presented and it had to fall the first week of your own 2000-2001 swimming season.

How enthusiastic you have become about your swimming, dreaming now of the future, wanting to be in the Olympics.

Watching Ian Thorpe, that Australian swimmer, at 17 years old and being called the Torpedo,... wearing shoe size 17. There you were making your own analysis, at the 2008 Olympics you will be 19 years old at an age where you will perform at your best, thinking "I am now 11 years old wearing shoe size 7, what size will I be wearing when I'll be swimming at the 2008 Olympics and where will be the Olympics 2008???" "...possibly Toronto, we'll know next June.

You know very well the difference having long feet will do when having to beat an opponent with fractions of second. What a kick you could get with those size 17 feet.

You have now started a new phase of your swimming. Now training five times per week, two hours of non-stop swimming each time. You want to change some of the way you eat and are looking at ways to become even more fit. Was this the Olympics fever, I am wondering how long will this last, will you be as enthusiastic in a few months, when it will be getting even harder to keep up with your training program?

Your dream, your ambition, to one day swim at the Olympics will last for as long as you want it. The reality of making it there, and reaching your goal will be possible only if you are willing to make all the efforts and sacrifices that come with such ambitions.

Wanting it,... you know so well what it means. Swimming and training to the point of pain, having to get up at 5:00am to be by the pool side on time, before going to school. Coming back from evening trainings at 7:30pm with an empty stomach because you did not have supper. Sometimes, feeling sick to your stomach before a major competition because of the stress you feel from the competitions. Knowing the risk of being disqualified at a competition just for moving so slightly when waiting for the starting gun shot. You know that all of these elements, each of these factors makes you an excellent swimmer and continuously improving.

How exciting it is to watch you swim your favourite style the breaststroke, to watch you swim the 200 medley, coming from behind because the butterfly style has slowed you down and passing the others when its time for the breaststroke.

We know the butterfly is not your style, when you first learned the "fly" you did not look forward of having to swim it and yet you won the silver medal at the 50 m butterfly at

the end of the last season at the Eastern Québec Regional Championship.

This year you have now reached one of your objectives to get some qualifying times, allowing you to compete at higher levels of competition, in Québec, your first A standard qualifying time from the Rimouski competition of November 4, 2000.

At the Défi Excel Rouge et Or of the Laval University of Québec city where on December 1, 2, 3 you improved all of your personal best times. There you were swimming among 630 swimmers from the ages of 10 years old to 20 years old and more. Swimming among the best in Québec.

You know you are getting closer and closer every day of reaching your goal for this year of making it to the Provincial Summer Games, "Les Jeux du Québec", that will be held in Lachine August 8 to August 11 next summer.

You know my son, for me you are a champion, I am so proud of you and not only because you excel in your sport, but also because you are kind and considerate to others. You get along with everyone no matter who they are or where they come from, you are respectful of others. You have those qualities that make you a very special person and there is no gold medal for that, you are most precious and I know you will do well in all that you do because of the person you are. Thank you for being who you are and I love you. Your mom.

Here is this year's competition schedule for Gabriel

November 4, 2000; Regional Competition/ Rimouski
December 1, 2, 3, 2000 ; Provincial Competition,/ Québec, University Laval
January 27, 28, 2001; Regional Competition/ Rivière du Loup
February 23, 24, 25, 2001, Provincial AA/ Montréal
March 24, 25, 2001; Regional Competition/ Trois Pistoles
April 27, 28 29, 2001; Provincial Team Championship/ Alma
June, 1, 2, 3, 2001; Provincial Competition A-AA-AAA/ Québec University Laval
June 23 & 24, 2001; Final East Québec Region & qualification for Québec Summer Games

In Gaspé

August 8 to 11, 2001, Québec Summer Games/ in Lachine /Montréal



CLASSIFIEDS

100 - Births

Our Creator blessed us with another beautiful boy - Tyler Lester Gunner was born on December 3, 2000 in Chibougamou Hospital at 5:27 p.m. weighing 12 lbs 4oz. We want to Thank our Creator for the safe pregnancy and for the safe arrival. Also we want to Thank our parents who came all the way from Chisasibi to be with us for the delivery, Irene and Isaac Matche, my brother Samson and Peggy and also to my friend Beth S.Longchap and Gerald. It means so much with us, you showed us that you care because you were with us for the delivery. Proud new brother is Evander Gunner and we are the proud parents: Edith and Gordon Gunner.

101- Birthdays

We would like to wish a Happy Belated Birthday to our Dad, Glen Longchap on Dec/20/2000 Happy B-day Dad and many more to come. Love always from your 3 children Marlene, Angel and Kenneth Longchap.

Happy Birthday to a wonderful, caring sister on Jan. 6. You can light up a person's life in a unique way with your sense of humour and with your laughter. You are a special person in our lives. Love always Weena/Andree-Ann

Nathan-John Loon... my 2nd oldest brother will be celebrating his 20th Birthday on January, 5th, 2001! So, Nate, how does it feel to finally be 20? Getting pretty old there, eh? Just joking! Well, I hope that you do good in college! And I wish you the very best with your girlfriend, Marie! I know that she must mean the world to you! Well, all I really wanted to say, is that I Love You-and Happy Birthday!... Anyways...I wish you-and Marie the very best in the New Year! Love your baby sister, Natasha Jessica Marie Loon(Ottawa)

102- Weddings

Congratulations to my nephew Ernie and his wife Christina who just got married on Dec/28/00 sending my best wishes to both of you and may the good Lord guide you both as the years pass by. Love always from Karen.

So My Friend, When is the Big Day? Special Congratulations going out to one of my favorite buddies, Ms.Nancy Blacksmith & Mr.Clifford Mianscum on their engagement. My Friend, you are so lucky that he proposed to you on Christmas Day, wishing you both all the good things the world has to offer, hoping that the love you share today and the kind of blessing being sent your way & follow you throughout your years together to ease struggles and deepen the joys of a lifetime. Once again congratulations and much love to you both!!!

105 - Obituaries

To the family members of late Claude Gull (deceased December 17, 2000). We are saddened by the loss of your dear one. May you find comfort and peace through happy memories you shared with him. God Bless you all. Marcel and Helen Martin

To Dennis Saganish & Maggie Etapp. We are sorry to hear about the loss of your son, Darrel. We hope the happy memories can ease your pain and sor-

row. With deepest sympathy, Marcel & Helen

300 - Personals

I want to say Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to someone in Waswanipi. His name is Eric Matoush. From someone you know in Chisasibi. R.C.

Merry X-mas & Happy New Year to all of these people: my brother Samson, Peggy, Sammy, Shelly, Tommy and Tanya (all in Nem.) my other brother Christopher, Freda, Dorianna, Jeremy, Linda, Justin and Jerry, my sister Rebecca, Barry, Juanita and Emily-Ann (all in Chis.) and to all my uncles and their wives and to all my cousins, my grand-father Isiah Salt (Wask.) and to all my friends and relatives. Once again, merry X-mas to each and every one of you. From: Edith Gunner & Family (Mist.)

Our 2 beautiful boys, Evander and Tyler Gunner. We wish you both a very merry X-mas and a happy New Year. Just being your mommy and daddy is the most precious gift for us because you'll always be part of our lives. We love you both so much with love and prayers: your mommy Edith and your daddy Gordon (p.s. Evander be a nice boy because Santa is checking his list twice)

Hello to my friend, Tommy boy. Hope your holidays are filled with happiness - just like what you showed me. I'm sorry I couldn't give you anything or even see you during Christmas time. But I would like to say I'm very thankful for your friendship. I'll be looking forward to another one of our talks. Till then, keep on smiling, and I'll talk to you soon. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. From Karen.

Merry X-mas and Happy New Year to my parents in Chisasibi, Irene and Isaac Matches. We think about you everyday and we miss you both so much. Even though we are always far apart just remember that we love you so much we thank you for your love and for everything you have done for us. From: love and prayers your daughter, son-in-law granddaughters: Edith, Gordon, Evander and Tyler Gunner xoxoxoxo

Attention!!! Cree Youth!!! If you're between the ages of 13-19 yrs old, and like having e-mail penpals, just write 2 me. And for your information, I'm a Cree chic, who loves making new friends around the Cree Nation! It really doesn't matter if you're male or female... I just want to make some new friends through the internet. Well if any of you are interested, just write to me at: cree_babygirl69@hotmail.com I hope to hear from your people... and soon!

Hello to all of my friends in Mistissini: Iris Voyageur, Jennifer Wapachee, Natasha Loon(Matoush), Leanne Matoush, Rita Trapper, Pelle Loon, Tyrone Bosum, Jeremy Neeposh, Camilla Mianscum, Sherry Iserhoff, Micheline Coonishish, and to anyone that I forgot to mention! Oh yeah, I would also like to say "Hi" to these people in O.J: Tamera and Samantha Capssist, Melissa Capssist, Nikita Shecapio-Blacksmith, and to one of my best friends, Patricia Wapachee!

Happy 2001!!! From Natasha Jessica Marie Loon, in Ottawa! P.S. See You Soon!

Junior Bobbish... you're the one that I admire so much!!! Since the very first day that I saw you... my heart skipped a beat! No guy in the entire Cree Nation is a georgeous as you are! I hope to see you again! And very soon! I wish I could live in Chisasibi with you! Love always, 'N 4ever...Your #1 Secret Admirer!!! In...?

People of the Cree Nation!!! I'm here to let you know that there will be a contest. Well, there's two contests. The first one is "The Cutest Girl In The Cree Nation", and the second one is "The Cutest Couple In The Cree Nation".For the cutest girl, she must be between the ages of 13-20 yrs. old.You also have to tell me where she's from, what her name is, and why you think

she's the cutest. If your not sure about the age, just guess.As for the cutest couple, they can be between the ages of 13-100 yrs old. Again, you must tell me their names, and where they're from. You don't have to tell me how old they are. There is a DEADLINE for this: April, 1st, 2001. E-mail me your votes at: cree_heart_breaker@hotmail.com Just to let you know, I will send the results into The Nation. Thank-You! And start voting...now! Fr: Destiny's Child.

You are the love of my life. I sleep with the big white teddy you gave me. See I told you you would always be. The moon still shines in a picture of you and I. Truly of what is forever. Unlike the fake diamonds your auntie chose for you to give me at this time of year in 96. Merry Christmas. Auck.

S.C. Val-d'Or

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